

## Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8449

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF BY-ELECTIONS AND RE-ELECTIONS

REF: ATHENS 2986

1. SUMMARY: RESULTS OF APRIL 20 BY-ELECTIONS IN TWO DISTRICTS AND RE-ELECTIONS IN SECTIONS OF FIVE OTHER ELECTORAL AREAS REDUCED NEW DEMOCRACY'S OVERWHELMING PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY BY THREE SEATS. (ND HAD EARLIER LOST A FOURTH SEAT WHICH WENT TO PASOK BY DECISION OF THE ELECTORAL COURT - ATHENS 2537.) PASOK GAINED TWO SEATS BRINGING ITS REPRESENTATION TO 15 DEPUTIES, CU/NF PICKED UP ONE SEAT FOR A TOTAL OF 61 DEPUTIES, LEAVING ND, ALSO WITH ONE VICTORY, WITH A NEW MAJORITY OF 216 SEATS. POLLING IN OTHER THREE DISTRICTS PRODUCED RESULTS WITHOUT CHANGING PARTY STRENGTHS. LEFTIST DEPUTIES CONTINUE TO HOLD EIGHT SEAT. END SUMMARY.

2. BY-ELECTIONS IN KOZANI AND CORFU, WHICH GENERATED GREATEST MEDIA INTEREST SINCE BOTH SEATS WERE ENERGETICALLY CONTESTED BY NEW DEMOCRACY AND COMBINED OPPOSITION, PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. NEW DEMOCRACY'S CANDIDATE IN KOZANI, I.A. VAYIATIS, DEFEATED MICHAEL PAPACONSTANTINOU (CU/NF) WITH 55 PERCENT OF VOTE, A DROP FROM ITS 62 PERCENT RECORD IN NOVEMBER 1974 ELECTIONS. SIMILARLY,

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IN CORFU NEW DOMOCRACY IN DROPPING FROM ITS NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

HIGH OF 48 PERCENT TO YESTERDAY'S 42 PERCENT MADE IT POSSIBLE  
FOR PASOK'S MORE APPEALING CANDIDATE (WITH CU/NF AND KKE BACKING)  
TO WIN.

3. IN IOANNINA, CU/NF'S GEORGE MYLONAS WON EASILY AS  
DID PASOK'S B. INTZES IN SERRES. BOTH CANDIDATES REQUIRED  
ONLY AN ADDITIONAL HANDFUL OF VOTES IN THE CONTESTED  
ELECTORAL POLLING SECTIONS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS,  
WHICH THEY READILY PICKED UP ON COALITION TICKET, TO  
DEFEAT ND DEPUTIES. IN THREE DISTRICTS PARTY STRENGTHS  
WERE RECONFIRMED ALTHOUGH IN ONE AREA FINAL RECKONING OF  
PREFERENCE CROSSES MAY SHIFT CU/NF INCUMBENT TO ANOTHER  
CU/NF CANDIDATE.

4. COMMENT: AS WE ANTICIPATED EARLIER (REFTEL), OPPOSITION  
PRESS VIEWED APRIL 20 ELECTIONS OUTCOME WHICH RESULTED  
IN ND'S LOSING THREE DEPUTY POSITIONS, AS VOTE AGAINST  
CARAMANLIS ADMINISTRATION AND IN FAVOR OF "DEMOCRATIC  
FORCES". HOWEVER, GOG'S OWN INTERPRETATION OF THE  
VOTE, ISSUED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR STEPHANOPOULOS,  
TOGETHER WITH RELATIVELY HIGH ABSTENTION RATES IN  
THESE ELECTIONS, WILL SERVE TO DAMPEN THE OPPOSITION'S  
CROWING. STEPHANOPOULOS POINTED OUT THAT IN CORFU THE  
OPPOSITION AS WELL AS ND POLLED FEWER VOTES THAN IN THE  
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS BUT THAT INDEPENDENT  
ROYALIST VOTE, WHICH UNQUESTIONABLY BELONGS WITH ND,  
THREW THE ELECTION TO THE OPPOSITION. HE ADDED THAT IN  
SERRES AND IOANNINA, WHERE ND LOST SEATS, THE GENERAL  
RESULTS OF LAST NOVEMBER'S ELECTIONS WERE NOT CHANGED  
SINCE BOTH OPPOSITION CANDIDATES NEEDED ONLY A SMALL  
NUMBER OF PERSONAL VOTES TO FULFILL THE QUOTIENT NEEDED  
UNDER REINFORCED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM. THIS  
THEY HANDILY ACHIEVED WITH LEFTIST SUPPORT.

5. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW GOG, AFTER UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY  
SURROUNDING LAST MONTH'S MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, SUPPORTED  
VIGOROUSLY ITS CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY IN BY-ELECTION  
DISTRICTS, WITH CLEAR INTENTION OF STEMMING ANTI-GOG  
PUBLICITY WHICH WOULD EMERGE THROUGH LOST SEATS. HOWEVER,  
NEW DEMOCRACY'S EMPHATIC PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY REMAINS  
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INTACT IN CONTINUING UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY IN  
GREECE FOR EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE COLLABORATION IN THE  
COMING MONTHS.  
KUBISCH

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